



Modoc County Children & Families Commission
802 North East Street • Alturas, CA 96101
Phone (530) 233-7122

01/25/2021

Nadine Burke Harris, MD MPH
Chair, First 5 California
2389 Gateway Oaks Drive #260
Sacramento, CA 95833

RE: First 5 CA Commission Meeting: Reauthorization of the Small Population County Funding Augmentation– Item 8

Dear Dr. Burke Harris,

Modoc County Children and Families Commission (First 5 Modoc) writes in strong support of the Small Population County Funding Augmentation (SPCFA), a funding stream that equitably distributes resources to ensure that children living in small population counties access services and supports that they otherwise would not have. We applaud First 5 California’s longstanding commitment to the 21 small population counties, including Modoc County, through this funding stream, and we respectfully request your approval at the First 5 California State Commission meeting on January 28th, 2021.

First 5 Modoc County is committed to our shared mission that all children grow up healthy, safe, and ready to success in school and life. We do this through building systems and funding programs that intentionally serve the most vulnerable and hardest to reach children and their parents/ caretakers throughout our county. Local investments provided approximately 75% of Modoc County children and families with programs, services and supports to improve child development, child health, family functioning, and systems of care. These investments provide critical access to rural, geographically isolated, and diverse populations.

However, service delivery looks different county-to-county – there are different partners, terrains, and logistics that must be taken into account. For Modoc County, the increased costs associated with geographical distance and the lack of available outside funding partners creates significant barriers to adequately support children and families in our county. SPCFA helps to address these exact barriers and enables our county to provide critical services and build better systems of care. In this sense, SPCFA is one critical aspect to achieving equity for our hardest to reach children throughout the state.

Without SPCFA, Modoc County would not have critical child development and family strengthening supports that exist today, such as the Modoc Co. Public Health prenatal and lactation support programs, Modoc County Office of Education Dollywood Imagination Library, Modoc County 4-H Primary Cloverbuds program, Modoc Co. Office of Education Early Mental Health Home Visiting, Modoc Harvest Sprouts Nutrition Campaign, Tulelake/Newell Family Resource Center and the Budding Tree School Readiness program., Further, like many small population and rural counties, First 5 Modoc is the only

early childhood entity that works across systems, making their role exponentially more critical in our community.

Modoc County Children and Families Commission (First 5 Modoc) commends First 5 California's recognition of regional differences and commitment to providing more equitable funding to small population counties and the children and families they serve. For these reasons, we respectfully request your approval of the SPCFA at your upcoming January commission meeting.

Thank you for your consideration and commitment to our youngest children. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 530-233-7122 or email first5modoc@gmail.com.

Sincerely,



Dr. Edward P. Richert
Modoc County Children & Families Commission
FY 2020-2021 Vice Chair